

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180594

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN ACCOMMODATIONS - MOVEMENT OF UN UNITS FROM
NEW YORK AND GENEVA TO VIENNA

1. AT THEIR REQUEST, SWISS AMBASSADOR PROBST AND PERMANENT
OBSERVER TO UN MARCUARD CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS
JULY 20 TO DISCUSS MOVEMENT OF UN UNITS FROM NEW YORK AND
GENEVA TO DONAU PARK, VIENNA. THE SWISS INTEREST WAS
IDENTIFIED AS PRESERVATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF
GENEVA WITH NO PERMANENT NET REDUCTION IN THE UN PRESENCE.

2. SWISS REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE
BOTH WITH THE AUSTRIANS AND WITH UN SECRETARIAT BUT HAD BEEN
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UNABLE TO DEVELOP MUCH HARD INFORMATION. THEY HAD LEARNED

THAT THE UN ENVISIONED TRANSFER OF 500 PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS FROM NEW YORK AND GENEVA TO VIENNA BY 1978.

3. LEWIS SAID U.S. BELIEVES DONAU PARK FACILITIES SHOULD BE USED AND THAT UN SECRETARIAT, IN EXERCISE OF MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS, SHOULD MAKE DECISIONS RE WHICH UNITS SHOULD BE MOVED TO VIENNA FROM NEW YORK AND GENEVA. U.S. POSITION, WHICH WE HAVE CONVEYED TO AUSTRIANS, IS THAT WE WILL ACCEPT SECRETARIAT DECISIONS PROVIDED THEY NOT INCLUDE IMPORTANT UN ORGANS (E.G., SECURITY COUNCIL) OR UNITS WITH HISTORY OF SPECIAL TIES TO U.S. (E.G., UNDP OR UNICEF). LEWIS SAID SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE DECISIONS RE UNITS TO BE MOVED ON BASIS RATIONAL MANAGEMENT.

4. LEWIS AGREED WITH OBSERVATION THAT THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS IF SECRETARIAT PROVES UNWILLING TO MAKE SUCH DECISION AND PUTS CHOICE OF UNITS TO BE MOVED BEFORE UNGA ALONG WITH ONLY VERY GENERAL GUIDELINES. BOTH SWISS AND U.S. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT CUBA, EASTERN BLOC AND OTHERS COULD TRY TO EXPLOIT SUCH SITUATION IN ORDER STIR UP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WHET THEIR APPETITE FOR HOSTING THE UN UNITS BEING TRANSFERRED. PROCESS COULD CAUSE UNRAVELING OF EXISTING UN PATTERN OF ACCOMMODATIONS. IN ORDER TO COUNTER THIS DANGER, IT WAS AGREED THAT SWISS SHOULD DISCREETLY CONVENE MEETING IN NEW YORK BETWEEN AMERICAN, AUSTRIAN, AND SWISS REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK OUT COMMON POSITION AMONG THREE MOST INTERESTED PARTIES. DETAILS COULD THEN BE DISCUSSED WITH UN SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT FOR AN AGREED POSITION FAVORING RATIONAL MANAGEMENT SOLICITED FROM WEO GROUP AND OTHER FRIENDLY MEMBERS. IN THIS WAY IT WAS HOPED ISSUE COULD BE MADE MORE MANAGEABLE AND LESS DRAMATIC AT FORTHCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY. KISSINGER

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